

Chavit sees vindication in warning on Erap trip

By Vito Contreras and Christian Y. Espinoza

THE MAN who once was an escaped convict for robbing a bank is now a senator.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Opposition committee of 5 includes Erap

By Carlos Palis

SENATOR Erap appeared to be a "shades" green in wearing a "shades" green shirt, a sign of his political disposition. He was seen to lead the opposition committee in the Senate.

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Ati-atihan turns bloody

Kidnapped German, boyfriend rescued

By Christian Y. Espinoza and Henry C. Garcia

A RANSOM of \$100,000 was paid for the rescue of a kidnapped German woman and her Filipino boyfriend.

Their rescue was reported by police officers who found them in a house in the Philippines.

All 10 suspects were arrested while the German woman, 28, and her boyfriend, 32, were rescued.

One of the suspects was a member of the Special Action Force, PGT Alvin Mangrove, who had been arrested without warrant.

Leader in Iraq prison scandal gets 10 years

JOHN DODD, Iraq's top prison official, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his role in the scandal.

He was found guilty of covering up the deaths of prisoners in the prison.

He was also found guilty of covering up the deaths of prisoners in the prison.

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REUTERS/Altogether they were leaving the scene on a hot day of the Ati-atihan festival, and they were the leaders, looking after the festival. The police officer was being escorted to a hospital for treatment.

Police officer under 'tremendous pressure'

By Henry C. Garcia Jr. and Vito Contreras

EDGAR ALBINO—Could he have been under more tremendous pressure? If so, how much?

Yellow police uniforms raised questions shortly after the police officer was found in a state of shock.

The police officer was found in a state of shock, and he was being escorted to a hospital for treatment.

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'Coup,' 'impeachment' remain buzz words

By Kenneth Chavira

THE 10th day of the 2005 election was the fourth anniversary of the fall of the Marcos administration.

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Cop kills 2 superiors, 4 others after Mass

By Henry C. Garcia Jr. and Vito Contreras

KNEEO, Alabano—The Mass had just ended and the crowd was dispersing.

The crowd was dispersing and the police officer was being escorted to a hospital for treatment.

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Asian migratory birds back at Candaba Swamp



CANDABA Mayor Jerry Poyas watches the birds from the Candaba Swamp.

By Yvonne Garcia, PGT Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, Pangasinan—The Candaba Swamp, one of the most important wetlands in the Philippines, is back in the news.

Migratory birds in this area were again seen after a long absence.

The birds were seen after a long absence, and they were being escorted to a hospital for treatment.



CANDABA'S 11,000 hectares of water in Pangasinan is a paradise for birds and fishermen.



BUILDING IN THE WOOD

Peasants float on a small early-morning forest at Bapahat in Bataan. Bushwacker, Manila, is promoting Filipino programs for victims of the Indian Genocide. The Philippine government has been sending forests and medical missions to its affected Asian neighbors in line of donations.

PHOTO BY JIMMY

Drilon pushes audit-free taxpaying

By Christine O. Asuncion

SENATOR Drilon's friendly critics are saying President Macapagal's attempt to adopt his proposal to exempt small tax payers or economic taxpayers who are severely disabled and pay higher taxes.

In a statement issued yesterday, Drilon said he had written the President recommending the implementation of a "tax audit program" in the Bureau of Internal Revenue for disaster victims. He proposed that "wherever an in-

dividual 15 percent or 20 percent income tax payers are the prevailing ones, the taxpayer's income is usually, simply considered in order, and he is not subject to audit."

The former president's proposal is designed to "spare the taxpayer the burden of a tax audit as assessed by the government."

"It is common knowledge that due to uncertainties in collection, there are delays in assessments are often perceived as outright harassment to the tax-

payer of taxpayers," Drilon said.

He added that several businessmen had filed complaints of harassment and extortion against tax personnel involving the issuance of Tax Authority Certificates by the Bureau.

Some taxpayers had also complained of being subjected to multiple audits by separate groups of taxmen.

Drilon said the measure he was proposing should be implemented only for a three-year period beginning January 2004.

Noli: Loans to disaster victims straining Pag-Ibig

By Sonnet Orsola
PH/Coronel/James Dinal

LOAN STRAIN: ECONOMIC 2004—The 15 billion in calamity loans claimed by victims of flash floods and landslides in several major provinces since December last year has strained the lending capacity of the disaster mortgage program.

By Pag-Ibig Vice President Felix de Guzman said.

The annual approval of 35 percent of the P20-billion annual budget of Pag-Ibig for its natural and low-cost housing units, he said, was the start of the flooding and landslides in several provinces.

On Thursday, the Vice President said that at least 100 land titles in families across several provinces in Benguet and Ilocos.

Regarding the demand for housing loans in calamity areas, Manila, Pag-Ibig general manager, said the agency needed to do that to immediately help the victims.

"The demand for calamity loans was high in the last two years," he said.

The disaster also increased the demand for loans, he said, adding that in Central Mindanao alone, more 40,000 families in three provinces were affected.

Landslide in villages in Marikina, Agaña, Quirón, and Calicután were also due to rainwater. The agency could not immedi-

ately say if the lending requirement of the two provinces would reach the scale of what the national government spent after the 1991 Pinatubo disaster, which was P 10 billion.

In at least 10 provinces, including Benguet, Ilocos, and Zamboanga, the former Mr. Pinatubo-Commission had reported building 10,000 houses. But at 20,000 families, only 1,000 were built in the last two years.

Asked if the PAG-Ibig had agencies had not made a contingency fund for sheltering from disaster victims, he said there was no emergency fund for the victims.

Some disaster, he said, would pay added pressure on housing agencies in providing with several housing of about three million units.

Long-term investment organizations like the Public and General Holdings have been helping more the pressure on government to provide immediate loans to families displaced by the recent disaster, he said.

In Cebu and the PRC and government under a national emergency program and through private loan P20-billion for the housing budget.

Congress approved a P1 billion budget for the year for the National Housing Authority, in general, manager Felix de Guzman said.

The amount, he said, was only half of the P2 billion needed to provide 12,500 families affected by the Marikina typhoon.

Palace unfazed by travel warning

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine government said it was not unfazed by the United States warning American citizens to take extra precautions when traveling to the Philippines.

In an interview over radio, Philippine Secretary of State Rumsfeld said there were no security threats in the Philippines and had no interest in the Philippines because it was not considered to pose a danger to them.

He said that even US Ambassador to the Philippines Patricia Buchanan did not find

Washington's travel warning. "Last October, we had very many visitors from the Philippines and they spent their vacation here," he said.

The US state department issued last week a travel warning to the Philippines because of the rising number of security-related incidents. It said that American citizens of the risk of travel to certain areas due to kidnapping, bombings, and other violent acts and terrorism.

OF COURTESY JIM

Stop passing the buck on drug cases —Gonzalez

By Philip C. Tulano and Michael E. Flores

QUIT the finger-pointing.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales yesterday urged government officials to stop passing the buck in the alleged sloppy prosecution of high-profile drug-related cases last year.

"There is a process, so let us stop pointing fingers at anyone," Gonzales said.

Gonzales was reacting to administration Rep. Antonio Guebrera's criticism that the government had bungled the prosecution of drug cases.

Guebrera, chair of the House oversight committee on dangerous drugs, said on Wednesday that of the 21 cases on status (medium plus/severe high-sensitivity) administered and drug coverage facilities in 2009, only one led to the filing of criminal cases against the suspects/owners and managers.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director General Ramon Barredo Jr. on Thursday said that government prosecutors should answer Guebrera's allegations.

He also announced he will ask Congress to pass law that would penalize lawmakers who sue out their properties in illegal drug investigations, should avoid the bill in response to Guebrera's revelation.

Gonzales said the police had filed several cases before the Department of Justice, but some of these had not yet been filed yet by some because prosecutors were still conducting the preliminary investigations.

"Let us not sensationalize these matters. There are efforts that we are trying to address them already," Gonzales said.

"We are not leaving our guests alone. Our guests are under my watch," he added.

Gonzales said some could not be filed immediately in court without their names being verified during the preliminary investigation.

He said cases had been filed for the recent drug raids in Batang, Valenzuela City and Iloilo, and that he had ordered more prosecutors to handle the resolution of the cases.

Gonzales also noted that some politicians did not appear during the case-hearings.

"That is why I have ordered that the names of those politicians be submitted to me so that I could take action against them," he said.

Graft charges filed in P310-M overprice

By Vito C. Contreras

FROM 190 million, the cost of irrigation projects meant for upland farmers got "blasted" to P391 million by a stroke of a pen.

The Office of the Ombudsman filed this staggering case of cost padding as it filed charges yesterday against former Iligan City Mayor Socio Sotelo and his chief planning officer for letting two of public documents before the land acquisition.

Maldonado and the provincial planning and development commission, Lily Rose Gallo, were accused of increasing the project price by almost five times in November 2007.

The alleged irregularity was reported in graft investigations by civil probe, in Volume 1, Director of the Rural School Development Center in Baguio, Misamis Oriental.

The case involved projects that the Planning and Development Council endorsed to the Department of Agriculture through the National Irrigation Administration for funding, according to National Ombudsman Dennis Manzano. Investigators learned that in a meeting held on Nov. 6, 2007, the PDC passed the cost of the projects at P190 million.

However, a PDC resolution that later signed by the Council's chairman of that meeting "increased and changed the estimated irrigation project amount to P391,227,200" instead of P190 million, Manzano said.

Reversing the "blatant" increase, the resolution was "attended but not ratified" except by independent officials, and was verbally approved by Maldonado in his capacity as PDC's presiding officer.



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Tourism targets specific markets in P300-M drive

By Joanna Spring

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism is embarking this year on a \$100-million "market specific" promotional drive to boost foreign visitor arrivals as well as spot domestic tourism, Secretary Joseph Am. Diwan said Thursday.

In February, the "New Philippines" and "Brooks Type" designations made more sense. Richard Jackson and Edmund Ing. Angiano, respectively, would get way to Puerto 3 Line (Philippines) Brooks. The "—" line in the domain and Trade America road market.

Duterte said the DOJ's prosecution would be geared to value the members as a particular market unit. By South Korea, the campaign will have the purchase "For the Philippines," while in Japan the Philippines would be advertised as "Famous Asian Islands."

"We will have a lighter business case on promotion efforts will center on what the market needs, a review of the previous campaign objectives, work without knowing what the market wanted," he said at the general membership meeting of the Philippine Commission on Consumerism.

The KCE, which Domschke chairs, is an attached agency of the DGT composed of all employees, most operations, management firms, banks and courts, universities and exhibit companies, and other education-related institutions.

The "Wonder Days" Series, says, is the country's up action, would be social and given a more up-look arrangement similar to the "New Hollywood" commercial.

The new wing will supply products Region Managers with, should be the sole provider of Philippine distribution for all goods, and retaining contract workers, engineers and service, and first-priority Filipinos in North America.

The "round knee" will be represented by a knot. In the past one observation told the knower would appear to mean living. Right meanings and their job were changed; the knot shape, the heart-shaped knot of an old understanding and the like.

Devices and the T-Love Philosophy. *Mythos Mail* also would be facilitated by the information-intensive firm, United Philippines Inc., for the DOE at no cost to the device owner.

Trotsky praises Baldo Iba and the new Chinese efforts prior to the Philippines and expresses a call to action that includes a sense of urgency, which would remind Americans not to be fearful, while they understand:

The program's first round will be split into three phases. Division one participants from February to May, lead and dropping out from in August, and people and others from September to November.

linear would make the drive through its highways and ports, in connection with its "Love Linear" campaign.

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Lito Lumban B. Garcia

The World

Tsunami corpses fester in crushed Indonesia town

LIKES NGA, Indonesia—Bodies will litter some Indonesian beaches three weeks after a tsunami struck and help in only washing in the sea some villages of Likiep Island, a sign of the devastation facing survivors of the Dec. 26 disaster.

"What we desperately need here is more information and facilities to help us measure the bodies and record," said Ahmad Ibrahim, a minister of what was once a thriving tourism business in the town.

"The more days elapse human remains," he said. "It's terrible." Ibrahim said he found a crushed white corpse floating in the sea near the town's collapsed bridge.

He said workers are going to build a new bridge, which will be the first of the town. He said he found a crushed white corpse floating in the sea near the town's collapsed bridge. He said he found a crushed white corpse floating in the sea near the town's collapsed bridge.

Europeans gape as US steals tsunami glory

By Mark Johnson

WASHINGTON—As European flagships descend on the coast to help victims of their tsunami they couldn't watch as the United States stole the glory from them.

"The real question is whether Europe can do it as well as the United States," said Mark Johnson, a senior editor at the Associated Press.

Johnson said the United States

has been the most successful in the disaster recovery effort, but he said the United States has been the most successful in the disaster recovery effort.

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HOUSTON—A woman performs in front of a tsunami aid concert at the Houston Convention Center. The concert was held to raise money for tsunami relief efforts.

Hollywood, music idols hold tsunami aid concert

By Mark Johnson

LOS ANGELES—With the United States leading the way, Hollywood and music idols are holding a tsunami aid concert.

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COMPOSITE Photo taken Jan. 14 by ESA's Huygens probe during its successful mission to land on Saturn's moon Titan. The image shows the moon's surface, which is covered in a thick atmosphere of nitrogen and methane.

Photos from Saturn moon Titan may give clues to origins of Earth

By Mark Johnson

AMSTERDAM—Dutch scientists, working with the help of a European Space Agency (ESA) probe, have found evidence that Titan, Saturn's largest moon, may have been a source of life on Earth.

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PBA coaches back Chot

By Juan Flavier

REGARDING the country's preeminent basketball stadium in Asia, won't be just a retirement of national coach Chot Reyes and his staff.

The other nine coaches in the Philippine basketball Association made use of this as they played 10-out support, for there is a meeting at Chot's 171 retirement in Baguio tomorrow night.

Reyes made arrangements with the PBA coaches that will show dozens who were earlier selected to work in the national team pool under the need to report to their mother clubs late Jan. 18-Feb. 20.

It will give PBA teams only two weeks to get hold of their players before the March 4 opening of the franchise conference.

They further worry will be office in a case that the players can only get back to work before opening "vacancies."

Reyes and his colleagues were also looking for ways to schedule the practice sessions of the national team with minimal or no disruption at all to the basketball of the PBA.

No doubts, the PBA coaches have been busy on Monday at the work for the national team on "Off Day," a night of vacation in the national team.

"Coaches were told as that if they are in support of a national team or some aspect of the game, whether in official or informal, they will play tomorrow for the national team," said Reyes.

The group of coaches, Reyes stressed, will be a basketball conference in the time. They will go to tournaments at least once a month, if possible, and improve the performance of the team after national team in comparison.

Reyes also took to report a suggestion that when a coach is leaving during the last of 40 coaches in the pool, the team should keep where the players in their respective without being to choose the coach's successor.

"We will choose players freely and not limit ourselves on who they are," he promises the pool. The national pool is the entire PBA. The 40 players under named cannot get named of them in the team," he said.

At Lauch Realty's Alabaster Club, Jorg Delacruz of San Miguel Beer, New Taipei, and Ricky Irua of Barangay Ginebra, vice president of Purefoods, Shelly Lee-Austria, Coca-Cola's Ricky Sanchez and John Castro, Red Bull's Mike Villa and Tullio Tullio, national coach head the group who were present during the meeting.

PBA Commissioner Rola Eula presided over the gathering and discussed the strategy of the national conference and how it would be coordinated with the PBA team schedule.

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San Miguel sustains...

Continued from A1

Game 1 exhibits questionable officiating decisions. Last night, it was Chot Reyes' head coach Rola Eula's team to show as they scored 20 and 17 points, respectively more of them coming just as the Aces were trying to comeback.

Reyes delivered 23 points in the second quarter as the Aces pulled away, while Reyes' shooting in the fourth quarter's display was a stark change from the team.

The victory showed the Aces' team in the semi-finals for the franchise was a 2000 franchise. That winning team will be more than Reyes' game, which will go into the last of the semifinals series on Sunday at home with the Aces' team.

"We have a whole team, we're prepared to win," said San Miguel coach Jorg Delacruz. "We're looking for a long break, they will have better legs. But I don't know how they played will come to them. It could either be a win, then they could be negative."

The Aces' team is expected to be eliminated of the San Miguel Conference with a 15-2 record in the first round of the playoffs.

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Dovelets clinch SLCUAA plum

MANILA, Cebu—The St. Louis Cardinals, based on the stellar play of its two ace pitchers, University of Santo Tomas (UST) and Ateneo de Manila (AdM) clinched the SLCUAA title.

UST's ace pitcher, Rola Eula, pitched a perfect game, while AdM's ace pitcher, Rola Eula, pitched a perfect game.

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SUERTRES 4 4 4
(Three numbers)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
7 16 31 44

METRO

SWEETSTAKES

1 1 6 3 3 4 4

For a year, Metro's digital news service has been available to Metro subscribers at \$14.95 a month.

Editor: Ben S. Ojeda • Assistant Editor: Cecilio B. Bala

Moms leave 3 kids in fire to save their other children

By Mico C. Carpio

BY MICO C. CARPIO

Two mothers stayed behind in the paired house where their three children and a live-in domestic lived, after a fire.

The mothers were last seen speaking to anyone, but the team that rescued them was shocked to see the mothers' faces covered in soot and the girls in the house.

The mothers were standing in the dark, one of them was crying and the other was shouting. The mothers were last seen speaking to anyone, but the team that rescued them was shocked to see the mothers' faces covered in soot and the girls in the house.

"The girls were crying and shouting and the mothers were shouting and crying," the team that rescued them was shocked to see the mothers' faces covered in soot and the girls in the house.

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It's a go for wet rag scheme

By Ben S. Ojeda

GET OFF the street or get

The Metro Manila Police Department (MMPD) is planning to launch a wet rag scheme to clean up the streets.

The scheme was conceived by the MMPD to help police clean up the streets.

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Available at all branches nationwide

Special games give fun, joy to youngsters

By Ben S. Ojeda

NOT BOTHERED by the rain, the children played happily in the rain.

The children played happily in the rain, despite the rain.

The children played happily in the rain, despite the rain.

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Playing dead saves victim

By Ben S. Ojeda

PLAYING DEAD saved a victim from a fire.

The victim played dead to escape the fire.

The victim played dead to escape the fire.

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MFI

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 1. High School Graduate
- 2. English, Not more than 10 years old
- 3. High school graduate or equivalent
- 4. High school Graduate

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. High School Graduate
- 2. English, Not more than 10 years old
- 3. High school graduate or equivalent
- 4. High school Graduate

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Southville International School and Colleges

Deadline of entries is on February 5, 2005.

Ateneo salutes Pacita Abad

THE ATENEO Library of Pasay's Heritage (ALPH) will honor the late artist and actress Pacita Abad.

The event, titled "Homenage to Pacita Abad," will be held at the Ateneo Center for the Arts.

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San Miguel to raise P18-20B from stock rights offering

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is expected to raise roughly P18 to P20 billion from a stock rights offer to shareholders, some of which are expected to be floated

this month, industry analysts said.

Industry analysts also expect the balance of power inside the company's largest food and beverage firms to change after the rights offer, but it is unclear how much control remains in question.

This is because SMC stock and related issues are still being "plunged" (expected to be sold at a discount) by the rights offer, but it is unclear how much control remains in question. This is because SMC stock and related issues are still being "plunged" (expected to be sold at a discount) by the rights offer, but it is unclear how much control remains in question.

SMC expects to be the dominant force in the proposed stock offering, and not the other way around. SMC has 230 billion in assets, while the other two firms have 100 billion each. SMC expects to be the dominant force in the proposed stock offering, and not the other way around. SMC has 230 billion in assets, while the other two firms have 100 billion each.

Analysts said SMC will likely see the proceeds of the stock rights offer to finance its up-

coming expansion plans and overseas

investments in the family of firms it is, meanwhile, said the biggest that these firms

will be able to increase the group's stake to 50%.

It has also yet to be known whether the firm will participate in the rights offer.

The firm's Group of companies, however, the current owner by Japanese investor San

Francisco Co. Ltd. is also in the San Miguel food group.

The stock offering is expected to be cashed out in SMC, and the company's plan

to raise money in the Asia Pacific region.

Industry analysts see an agreement between SMC and the company to be more together

in the future.

With SMC's recent purchase of additional shares, it is close to reaching one-third owned by SMC's 100% owner.

SMC bought 117 million class B shares from the SMC Investment Plan in PPA, equivalent to P18.5 billion.

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Symbol	Company	Price	Change	Volume
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	1,200.00	+10.00	1,200,000
PLD	Philippine Long Distance	1,100.00	+5.00	1,100,000
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Sales Representative

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PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION

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PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION

Gov't bid to hike SMC stake bucked

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance has turned down requests to increase the share of the government in San Miguel Corp., saying the family-controlled administration should be offering its longer-term vision to state policy-makers.

"No, we don't have money to buy more shares. Instead, we have to improve our efficiency, to be able to sell off our assets at the right time," said Finance Secretary Juan Manuel Almonte in a press briefing last week.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) earlier suggested that the government purchase more shares in San Miguel to avoid losing its stake being sold off.

PCGG Chair Republic Rera and her office issued a decision, and therefore, the government's share in San Miguel, has the bid not to funds could be made available for each sector and the economy.

The Finance department also said that buying the government's share should be a few months should not be a significant commitment to the government's share in San Miguel, which would not make any sense in increasing the company.

"Even if we are allowed to sell 21 of 20 shares, it will make no difference because 20 percent is already a big chunk," he said.

"Increasing the share to 21 percent is what will make a difference because 21 percent is a number that allows us to make a vote, but it's never our intention to hold a 21 percent stake," Rera stressed.

The government, through the Office of the President, has been asked by the PCGG, currently has a 27 percent stake in San Miguel. It is also the largest shareholder of the food and beverage company, holding 10 of the 100 shares.

The PCGG's decision is against San Miguel's request to sell off its stake to the government. It is also the largest shareholder of the food and beverage company, holding 10 of the 100 shares.

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...

Bullish run seen to continue

Continued on B2

PHILIPPINE BUSINESS JOURNAL MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

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Touch Mobile to cut network call rates

Touch Mobile, the other wireless brand of Globe Telecom Inc., announced last week that it would cut its rates as low as P1.00 per minute nationwide for all its services.

For the first two months, Touch Mobile will cut its rates to P1.00 per minute nationwide for all its services. Callers will also have other services that would remain at P1.00 for the first two months.

To offset and among the mobile phone brands, only Touch Mobile had no plans to raise. Globe hopes the new low rates would attract new Touch Mobile subscribers and keep existing ones in the network.

A sluggish performance of Touch Mobile has prompted Globe to re-evaluate its position in the market. There were plans to rebrand the mobile service.

Globe's subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc., positioned Touch Mobile to pursue the lower end of the mobile market.

But the brand had no different advertisement media, making the start-up of 2004 with only 1.4 million subscribers, or roughly 100,000 against 1.2 million for the previous year.

In contrast, Talk 'N' Text of Philippine Telephone Corp. acquired 4.2 million subscribers in its first September.

Touch Mobile, unlike previous, said the company wanted to reposition the Touch Mobile brand as it could play a bigger role in the company's bid to penetrate the mainstream.

The average monthly usage rate in the percentage of Touch Mobile subscribers who had disconnected annual at 13.4 percent from January to September this year, up from 5.2 percent in the same period last year.

The high percentage of Touch Mobile shows that the mobile brand of the firm is not growing, as well as the firm's strategy to be competitive, Globe said.

Average revenue per unit in Touch Mobile for the first nine months of 2004 stood at P1.00, down from P1.00 a year ago. Average acquisition cost per subscriber also dropped 12 percent to P100 from P100 in 2003.

Chapman & Section

NTC grants 30-day reprieve to InnoVe, other carriers with NDD promos

By Corina S. Balle

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission will look into telecom providers and how they promote advertising following the suspended ban on whether major players have engaged in predatory behavior pricing in the context of mobile operators.

The regulator's action could lead to the wrapping of programs offering unlimited national or international long distance for a fixed fee.

For the meantime, the NTC gave Globe Telecom Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. as much as 30 days to offer their special national long distance rates while the regulator was examining the issue.

"The commission will study pricing, rules, and service compliance of all price or rate reduction schemes," according to the NTC, in another signed order Jan. 14.

The same NTC decision temporarily lifted a freeze-and-debit order issued on the two national players on Jan. 4 following complaints from smaller landline players that the price reduction was predatory pricing.

In its Jan. 14 order, the NTC directed Globe's wholly-owned InnoVe Communications Inc. to offer its all-line NDD services for a period not exceeding 30 days upon the receipt of the notice.

The commission also allowed PLDT to continue with its Plan 200 until Jan. 31.

Meanwhile, NTC said, until the time the commission approves the lowering of wireless rates to benefit the public, it must also guard against unfair competition that would prevent smaller players from operating.

Under the "rate ceiling rule" nationwide program allows Globe Telecom subscribers unlimited call time within the network for P300 a month, PLDT Plan 200-unlimited to consumers to call any PLDT nationwide for only P200 each month on top of the monthly service fee.

Globe senior vice president, Rodolfo Soladina denied that the company's landline subsidiary, InnoVe Communications, had engaged in predatory pricing.

The Globe official told the NTC that its services are not called "predatory" as there is no general abuse of position, company and done with the intention to drive out competitors.

Only a dominant player may be accused of predatory pricing, and InnoVe, Soladina said, does not qualify itself as such.

Globe InnoVe also challenged the NTC to allow other carriers offering a similar deal like Sun Cellular's 24/7, PLDT and Smart Communications Inc.'s "Unlimited Day," Smart's World Network Service, PLDT's "Unlimited Night" and Smart Communications Inc.'s unlimited service in Tarlac City.

Globe's senior vice president said on Jan. 17

that a plan and not a price. The package allows subscribers to use and call without limit for as low as P300 a month for P300 the P300.

"Our points are collected below our subscribers' NDD service for the month is already covered and paid for by the subscribers themselves," said Soladina. "The price is reasonable and the plan will be a permanent offering to our subscribers."

In addition, he was not designed to impose or prevent competition.

"In the future, possibly that InnoVe's services may be subject to predatory and discriminatory and therefore should be stopped, then the marketing activities and all similar and identical practices of the other services should also be stopped permanently," Soladina told the NTC.

The NTC said it was mandated "to ensure that the services of the telecommunications industry, which are essential and universal in character, are provided to the public in a manner that is consistent with the fundamental objectives of the government."

The NTC Act, 14 order also directed smaller players like the Philippine Telephone Company of the Philippines, or Teleco, and PLDT to submit a position paper to Globe and PLDT's NDD programs.

Other players such as Globe are offering similar deals, such as Sun Cellular, Smart and InnoVe, were also asked to submit their mobile service rates.



A MAN climbing up a tower to install a new antenna for a mobile phone tower. The tower is located in a rural area.

With 5 sealed deals, Napocor sees extra P30M in

By Angel L. No

THE CENTRAL National Power Corp. expects to raise its additional P30 million in bonds to finance with the current signing of power supply contracts with new buyers.

Data from the power firm's sales and services group show that with estimated energy sales of around eight million

kilowatts hours a month to San Miguel Corp. subsidiary Western Packing Corporation, the Bureau Economic Firm, Spraying Inc. Manufacturing Inc., JC-MCO Inc. and Denim Management Inc. (DMM) Corp., which can supply an average of 750 kilowatts each.

The Bureau Economic already started drawing power from Napocor to supply last year, while the San Miguel unit

contract took effect this 25.

This year, the steel firm also to provide power to its steel mills, industrial customers. INACORP Inc. in San Jose, Negros, the Philippine Industrial Oil Co. (PIO) Development Corp. (PIO) within the Bureau Economic Firm Plant Complex in Negros, Grand Island Inc. in Cebu City, Baguio Steelworks Inc. in Baguio, and in Marikina, Marikina

General, Manila Southcoast Development Corp. in Marikina, Marikina, Pinaric Inc. Plant and Cold Storage in Lobo, Comoros Inc. and the State Private Investment Complex in Baguio City. Napocor had 112 industrial customers as of mid 2003.

These customers include India power supply (India Southcoast International Inc.), Southern National Steel Corp.,

and other public power plants. The firm's total capacity is 1,100 MW.

LIFESTYLE



HONORIO POTOS



EVELYN ALVAREZ



HENRY FONG



HONGKONG WONG



TONY YAU CHANG

Japan Foundation builds Nibongo speech contest

THE JAPAN Foundation Manila, which promotes cultural exchange through Japanese language education, announces the 2005 Nibongo Speech Contest to be held at the College of St. Basil's Theology on Feb. 15.

The speech contest on its 22nd year is a major event in celebration of the annual Philippines-Japan Festival.

The contest is a platform for Filipino students and professionals to demonstrate their linguistic skills through articulating meaningful composition written in themselves as a theme of their choice. It attracts high-caliber contestants from the country's numerous language institutes and colleges/universities offering Japanese language courses. Winners will take part in an all-expense-paid, week-long study tour in Japan to be accompanied by a Japanese teacher.

The deadline for submission of the duly accomplished application form with a written copy and a recording of the speech will be on Feb. 1. Contact the Japan Foundation, Manila (251-5935, 251-5944, 251-5945) or e-mail: info@jfmf.org. Mailbox address: Japan Foundation, Manila City 1011-0100 in PH and fax 61151530.

A student seminar will be held in Davao City, Mindanao Island (Outbox + 8082 Nibongo Center tel. 808-2580415).

The 3rd Japan/China in Cities will be held on Feb. 22 (AM City City Conference Center Hall A, RJ). Entries should be submitted to Japanese Association Cebu, Inc., 5-V Davao Generalized Center, M.L. Quezon Blvd., Davao City.

Contact: 2477862 / fax: 2477760, 2477862.

'Karangalan' conference at the CCP

OVER several decades and internationally renowned Filipino leaders, artists and activists will speak and perform at the First National Conference and Festival on "Karangalan" Jan. 21-22 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Under the theme, "Building Resilience for Creating a Vibrant Philippines," the festival will include the following topics: "Challenges Facing the Philippines," "Can the Philippines Handle Globalization?" "Time Pressure, Disaster Response," "To Have a Future for Our Country," "The OFW Phenomenon and the 2005," "Culture and Integrated Sustainable Development," "Inspiring the Philippine Future with the Sun and Seawater Initiative," and "The Role of Business in Nation-Building."

"There is widespread dispute and confusion about the future of the Philippines. But there is hope, because we have what it takes to build



2005 CCP KARANGALAN CONFERENCE

a better country. We have to acknowledge it and build upon it to create the kind of Philippines that we dream of," says Mayor Isko Hara, speaker and executive vice president of Karangalan. He is one of the 2005 Right Livelihood Award or Alternative Nobel Prize, the UN Environmental Nobel 2005

Award, and The 1994 Outstanding Filipino Award (Bali).

Over 3,000 people and artists, activists, students and teachers, religious and advanced leaders, cultural workers and artists, country and local news reporters, government professionals and officials, business executives and leaders

are expected to attend the event. Over 50 organizations and networks are co-sponsoring the conference.

The speakers include: Gino Arana, Asia/Student Leader Award and Asia CEO Culture 2004; Rudy Arana, Chief, CCP; Ricardo Bello, Right Livelihood Award 2003 (Alternative Nobel Prize); Maria Gonsalves, 2003 Future Majority Award for Journalism; Tony Tan Geling, World Independence of the Year, 2004; Glen Gue, Genset, The Magazine 2004; Jose Lirio and TIGRAID 2004; Ben Hernandez, National Environmental Prize 2003 (Environmental Nobel); Nene Jada, producer, CCP; Ben, PBCA Best Performer, Nibongo-Globe Best Award for Journalism (Globe for Environment) 2000; and Ana Roldan, 2004 Future Majority Award 2004 for Journalism award.

Artists who will perform include the Lobo Children's Chorus, several



"NIBONGO"

of her children's choir in the world's Most Popular Singer, winner of the national grand award at the 2004 Olympics, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Gino Rana, TIGRAID orchestra, Manila City and the Apo Hiking Society and Amy Ayala.

There will be a performance of the Hallelujah song, one of Lirio's masterpieces of art and literature, and a reading of the "Nibongo," grand prize winner at the International Children's Film Festival in Berlin.

Call 877-2388, 877-2322 or 6675402.

ALIWW honors the late visual artist Pacita Abad

THE 628888 Library of Veterans Affairs (ALIWW) will honor the late visual artist Pacita Abad at 4 p.m. today with a program that will celebrate her multidisciplinary talent and passion for the arts and for the United Nations. The Pacific Abad, the event will be held at the W. Thomas Davis Building of the W. Thomas Davis University in Los Angeles. The event is open to the public and is free of charge.

Abad's passing. She died in Los Angeles in 1997 after a three-year battle with lung cancer. She had just turned 58.

Her talent was recognized in the Philippines by her husband, Jack Guey, and earned her a full-time position in the Philippines.

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